

Local election officials predict good turnout for primary

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TUCSON - Early voting across Pima County is keeping election officials busy ahead of Tuesday's primary. Already, 14% of Pima County's registered voters voted early.

Voter John Kaufmann said, "We live in a participatory democracy and this is how we participate. And secondly, if you don't vote, you can't complain about what's going on."

By the time the polls close Tuesday, County Recorder F. Ann Rodriguez expects Pima County's turnout to be one of the largest in the state. She said, "We anticipate roughly maybe about a 50 percent turnout."

Arizona Secretary of State Ken Bennett said, "Statewide we're expecting somewhere around 25 percent."

Across the state, Republicans, Democrats, and Green Party members all have primary elections. And people who are registered Independent can pick which of those primaries they want to vote in.

F. Ann Rodriguez said "All they have to do is declare which political party ballot they want. They only get one. Vote that ballot. They still remain independent."

Since May, Arizona's registered roughly 35-thousand new voters, most of them Independents. In fact, right now almost one third of Arizona's voters are registered Independent.

"I think that's probably driven by a general dis-satisfaction with both parties maybe. And people don't want to be exclusively one or the other," said Bennett.

Friday is the deadline for early voting in Pima County.

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